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23 May 1949

MEMORANDUM

TO: []
FROM: []
SUBJECT: Albania

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2D
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

REFERENCE: Your memo this subject, No. 30734, 23 May, 1949.

1. I agree with [] both as to the haste with which the British Plan was produced and as to the influence thereon of the English position and ambitions in Greece. I believe, also, that the British will regard this as something of a test case in determining the degree of OPC cooperation they may expect, and their ability to influence any partnership with us which may evolve.

2. I think it would be futile to assert any control of the British operations as projected. They would be quick to retort by saying that it is only a reconnaissance. I therefore think we should take the position that we understand their feelings about having to do something in Albania and that we wish them well in their efforts. We should then suggest that there be asserted sufficient liaison to avoid any crossing of wires. We should point out that our own project is on a larger scale than theirs and at the same time more subject to external political influences and that in consequence its exact development cannot be foreseen at this time. We should add that as various developments occur, we will inform them. We should also raise the point of informing the American political and military representatives in Greece concerning the British Project.

3. [] has prepared the attached draft operational plan for Albania with a view to presenting it to the British on the 24th. I take this opportunity to bring it to your attention.

TJB:fdp

Attachment:
see above

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OUTLINE FOR OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR ALBANIA

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PHASE I.

A. Formation of the Committee-in-Exile:

The target date for the announcement of the formation of the Committee is 1 July 1949. Three major components will be the Balli Kombatar, the Zogists and the Independent Bloc under Verlaci. Leader will be Midhat Frasheri. Headquarters of the Committee will be in Paris.

B. Reconnaissance:

Reconnaissance for the requirements of this operation will continue. These activities will continue throughout the operation.

PHASE II.

A. Propaganda:

This is the softening-up phase, scheduled to commence immediately following the announcement of the formation of the Committee. It will include our own activity on behalf of the Albanians, such as Albanian-language programs and, it is hoped Radio Ankara, as well as the Committee's own efforts, such as publication and distribution, inside Albania as well as outside, of a newspaper and pamphlets. Black operations will include fade-ins on Radio Tirana, and the establishment of a transmitter for the Committee which will purport to operate from inside Albania.

B. Training:

Target date for this activity is July 15. Several alternative bases are presently under consideration, among them former American airbases on Corsica or Sardinia and a site in Egypt which Farouk has indicated he would make available to Zog. This activity will have two stages; the first will consist of the training of ten hand-picked Albanians by Americans. The second will involve the training of an additional forty Albanians by representatives of the first group. In this way knowledge of American participation will not be imparted directly to any Albanian who will actually form part of the S.O. force.

Selection of the initial ten will be made in the immediate future by Frasheri or his deputy in consultation with our Operational Chief. In recruiting the second group of forty the inflexible rule to be followed will be that selection is made by a sub-committee of the National Committee, charged by the latter body with responsibility in these matters, and to function in consultation with our Operational Chief.

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PHASE III.

A. Organization of the Interior:

This will involve use of the cadre of forty, who will be infiltrated by various means including airdrops, beach landings and border crossings, for the purpose of establishing communication, supply lines and liaison with existing resistance groups inside Albania. Target date between 15 August and 1 September.

B. Strike:

The requirements for the initiation of this final operational phase are:

1. Success of the preceding phases.
2. GNA in force on the northern borders.
3. Clear assurances that the GNA will not move into Southern Albania in the event of disturbances in Albania.
4. Tito, and not a Cominform regime, is in effective control of Yugoslavia, or at least those portions thereof bordering on Albania.
5. Concurrence by the NSC, the JCS, and the Department of State that such a development at that time will not conflict with overall policy.

The present concept is of an internal uprising, led and participated in by Albanians already in the country, with the exception of the cadres above mentioned. If in the course of Phases I and II it appears desirable and feasible to train and equip an Albanian Brigade outside the country, plans for this activity will be put into effect.

Throughout the course of all three phases:

1. The Greek attitude towards Albania will be carefully followed and efforts made to influence it as necessary.
2. Yugoslav activities inside Albania will be made a primary intelligence target.
3. Soviet and satellite arms shipments to Albania will be subject to close surveillance with a view to possible methods of interdiction.

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4. Maximum use will be made of the Macedonian Question to neutralize Greek Nationalist aims and Yugoslav expansionist aims.

5. Strongest pressure will be brought to bear on the Greek government:

a. Forthwith to cease its utterances laying claim to Albanian territory; and

b. To make a statement immediately following the formation of the Committee renouncing any territorial claims on Albania provided Albania has a freely elected democratic government, which would pledge itself to abstain from any interference in Greek internal affairs under the aegis of the U.N.

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